

Conclusions



Conclusions should be derived from a synthesis of the summaries for each of the four key questions. The conclusions should provide a list of priority groups and areas for further consideration by the community planning group. Groups or areas substantially affected by HIV and those that are less affected but have a substantial prevalence of high-risk behavior or other indicators of vulnerability should be clearly delineated.

The conclusions of the epidemiologic profile should provide community planning groups with a comprehensive understanding of the impact of HIV, both regionally and within population groups. Because the profile provides only part of the information required for decision-making, some of the priority groups or areas identified by the epidemiologic profile may not be identical to those ultimately given high priority by the community planning group. The profile and its conclusions should serve as the starting point for needs assessment and gap analysis to guide community planning groups in setting priorities and making decisions for targeting HIV prevention activities. All the data compiled in the community planning process need to be considered together and synthesized before the HIV prevention plan is developed. Finally, the HIV prevention plan must clearly reflect how plans for prevention are based on data.